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Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Informational Session

Wednesday, September 25th - Southworth Library, 732 Dartmouth St., Dartmouth, MA
6pm - 8pm. Hosted by SEMAP and MA Farm Bureau Federation

The FDA is accepting comments on its proposed regulations of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) until November 15th. The session will cover the proposed regulations under the Produce Rule and the Preventive Controls Rule. SEMAP encourages our region's farmers, processors, and eaters to learn about the issues surrounding each rule, and to comment thoughtfully. If you're a farmer, a processor, or want to remain an informed consumer, please attend our information session.

This Event is FREE and open to all. [Please Register for the Event Here.](#)

Field Day - Native Pollinators in Massachusetts

October 2, 2013 - Lakeville-Middleboro, MA

The Native Pollinators in Agriculture Project, in conjunction with in-state partners, is hosting a field day in southeast Massachusetts for growers, conservation and business partners, and media representatives where we will be spotlighting the “free” services that native pollinators provide to fresh fruit and vegetable growers and open space land managers.

Many Massachusetts grown fruits and vegetables depend on bees for pollination, including cranberries, apples, melons, squash, cucumbers, strawberries and blueberries. With recent declines of managed bee populations, the importance of native bees and other pollinators is ever increasing. By supplementing the work of honey bees, native pollinators help to increase yields for many crops. Nationwide, native bees pollinate crops worth an estimated \$3 billion each year. The field day will showcase both the research and practical applications of providing habitat suitable to native pollinators in agricultural settings.

The field day begins at 8:00 am on October 2nd at Ocean Spray Cranberries headquarters in Lakeville-Middleboro, MA. Following opening remarks from our hosts and NPIA project leaders and a presentation on “Why Pollinators matter,” we will travel by bus to a number of field sites to examine pollinator habitat and see native pollinators in action. At these sites we will be sharing information about the “free” pollination services that native pollinators provide and the native plants and wildflowers that provide valuable habitat for these beneficial insects. The tour will continue with stops at a cranberry harvest site, the UMass Cranberry Research Station, as well as a stop to view rights-of-ways that are being managed to enhance pollinator habitat. Field tour includes Standish Bog Company, Plymouth, AD Makepeace Company, Wareham, and the UMass Cranberry Research Station. The field tour will conclude at 4:00 pm.

NPIA’s goals for the National Field Day in Massachusetts are to facilitate networking opportunities amongst multiple stakeholders in the growing region, introducing them to initiatives that are already in place, while allowing them to gather information; identify priorities; and engage partners and policy makers on the need to address pollination challenges. Native Pollinators in Agriculture’s priorities include working collaboratively and proactively with agricultural leaders and growers and service providers and partners to establish and protect native pollinator habitat and increasing populations of native and managed pollinators while improving profitability, food security, and biodiversity.

To register for the field day, send an email to Lindsay Grossman at lgrossman@agpollinators.org.

Vendors Invited to “Hey Day”

Saturday, October 5, 2013 - Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, 113 Goodnow Road, Princeton MA 01541
10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Rain date Sunday, October 6, 2013)

INFORMATION FOR VENDORS AND EXHIBITORS

- Vehicle access to unload/set up is permitted on the day of the event between 8am - 9:30am; loading/break down is permitted after 4pm. Parking for vendor and exhibitor vehicles is otherwise with public participants in designated lots.
- Please note: Designated area for vendors and exhibitors is outdoor lawn space only! Past participants especially should note this change. A pop-up canopy to shelter table space is permitted, but not provided.
- Vendors and Exhibitors are issued 2 Hey Day admission passes; please pay entrance fee (\$6/Mass Audubon members, \$8/nonmembers) for family members or others in attendance beyond that number.
- Pets are not permitted; all exhibit animals must be registered and approved in advance (see Exhibitor Registration Form). Smoking is not permitted.
- Rain date is planned in the event that very heavy rain or severe weather is predicted. Registered vendors/exhibitors will be contacted by phone or email on Friday, October 4th if the rain date is to be used.
- Vendor registration forms and fees and/or Exhibitor registration form must be completed and submitted by Sept 28, 2013.

If interested, contact MA Audubon at 978-464-2712.

Town of Carlisle Seeks Letters of Interest for Cranberry Bog

The Town of Carlisle is seeking letters of interest from parties interested in entering into a 10-year management agreement, starting in July of 2015, of approximately forty (40) acres of cranberry bog, plus other adjoining land used in connection with or incidental to the maintenance, cultivation and harvesting of said bog, including existing sand pits, gravel, dikes, water supply and control structures and including the agricultural building known as the Cranberry Bog House, and including a parking area, all as described in the 2007 Cranberry Bog Baseline Assessment. The cranberry bog has been in operation since the early 1900s. The Assessment can be located on the web at

http://www.carlislema.gov/pages/carlislema_steward/Bog%20BA%20June%202007.pdf.

The following restrictions will be placed on the use of the bog house:

- 1) Building use restricted to agricultural purposes

After determining the level of interest among all parties in operating the cranberry bog, the Town will solicit proposals by means of a Request for Proposals, issued pursuant to the Uniform Procurement Act, M.G.L. c.30B, §16. All parties that indicate an interest in pursuing an agreement will be provided with a copy of the RFP once it is issued. Please email letter of interest to swillard@carlisle.mec.edu or mail to: The Carlisle Conservation Commission, Attn: Cranberry Bog Committee, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish. For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.